AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for generating or increasing the resistance of a plant to a plant pathogen of the phylum Oomyceta comprising increasing the activity of a Rpi-blb2 protein in the plant or a tissue, organ or cell of the plant or a part thereof by expressing a transgenic Rpi-blb2 protein encoding nucleic acid molecule ~~and/or increasing the copy number of a Rpi-blb2 protein encoding nucleic acid molecule~~, wherein the plant has increased resistance to the plant pathogen of the phylum Oomyceta, wherein said Rpi-blb2 protein encoding nucleic acid molecule is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleic acid molecule encoding the polypeptide depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4;

(b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the coding sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 3 or 5 or 6;

(c) a nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide comprising a sequence having ~~greater than 82%~~ at least 90% identity to the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of (a) or (b); and

(d) ~~a nucleic acid molecule the complementary strand of which hybridizes under high stringency conditions with the nucleic acid molecule of (a) or (b); and~~

~~(e)~~ a nucleic acid molecule encoding a biologically active portion of the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of (a) or (b).

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the activity of a further resistance protein is increased.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the activity is increased due to a de novo-expression.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the activity is an endogenous activity.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, comprising one or more of the following steps

a) stabilizing the resistance protein;

b) stabilizing the resistance protein encoding mRNA;

c) increasing the specific activity of the resistance protein;

d) expressing or increasing the expression of a homologous or artificial transcription factor for resistance protein expression;

e) stimulating resistance protein activity through exogenous inducing factors;

f) expressing a transgenic resistance protein encoding gene; and/or

g) increasing the copy number of the resistance protein encoding gene.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 which results in reduction in sporulation index of at least 30% after infection with P. infestans compared to a wild type.

8-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the Rpi-blb2 protein is characterized by a P-loop and a NBS domain.

40-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the activity of the further resistance protein is an endogenous activity.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, comprising one or more of the following steps

a) stabilizing the Rpi-blb2 protein;

b) stabilizing the Rpi-blb2 protein encoding mRNA;

c) increasing the specific activity of the Rpi-blb2 protein;

d) expressing or increasing the expression of a homologous or artificial transcription factor for the Rpi-blb2 protein expression;

e) stimulating the Rpi-blb2 protein activity through exogenous inducing factors;

f) expressing a transgenic Rpi-blb2 protein encoding gene; and/or

g) increasing the copy number of the Rpi-blb2 protein encoding gene.

46. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the Rpi-blb2 protein encoding nucleic acid molecule is a nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide comprising a sequence having ~~greater than 82%~~ at least 90% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, wherein the polypeptide comprises a NBS domain and an LRR domain.

47. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the Rpi-blb2 protein encoding nucleic acid molecule is a nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide comprising a sequence having at least 95% identity to the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of (a) or (b).

48. (New) A method for generating or increasing the resistance of a plant to a plant pathogen of the phylum Oomyceta comprising increasing the activity of a Rpi-blb2 protein in the plant or a tissue, organ or cell of the plant or a part thereof by expressing a transgenic Rpi-blb2 protein encoding nucleic acid molecule, wherein the plant has increased resistance to the plant pathogen of the phylum Oomyceta, wherein said Rpi-blb2 protein encoding nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleic acid molecule the complementary strand of which hybridizes under high stringency conditions with a nucleic acid molecule encoding the polypeptide depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4 or a nucleic acid molecule comprising the coding sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 3 or 5 or 6, wherein the high stringency condition comprises hybridization in a 4X sodium chloride/sodium citrate (4X SSC) solution at 65°C, followed by a washing in 0.1X SSC at 65°C for one hour.